

INFORMATION BULLETIN

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

Number: WIAB02-41

Date: November 20, 2002

Expiration Date: 6/30/03

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TO: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

SUBJECT: TICKET TO WORK PROGRAM

The purpose of this bulletin is to announce the Job Service Division's Field Office Directive 02-49 (attached), which provides information on a new work incentive program for individuals with disabilities. Initially, the Ticket to Work Program will only be available in certain "Ticket" pilot states. All Ticket to Work programs will be phased in and available throughout the country by January 1, 2004. Implementation of the Ticket to Work Program in California is planned for 2003. Information about the Ticket to Work Program will be linked to the Employment Development Department's home page for future reference.

If you have any questions about the Ticket to Work Program, please contact your [Regional Advisor](#) at (916) 653-6347.

/S/ BOB HERMSMEIER
Acting Chief
Workforce Investment Division

Attachment

ATTACHMENT

***** FIELD OPERATIONS DIRECTIVE 02-49 *****

TO: Division Chiefs FOD No.: 02-49
Employment Development Administrators Issued: Nov 07, 2002
Managers Expires: Nov 06, 2003

FROM: Job Service Branch
Job Service Division

SUBJECT: TICKET TO WORK PROGRAM

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 7, 2002

CONCERNED STAFF: All JS Staff

CONTACT: Christine Russo (916) 654-8195
E-mail Address: crusso@edd.ca.gov

I. PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

The purpose of this FOD is to inform Job Service site staff of a new work incentive program for individuals with disabilities. It is called Ticket to Work.

- A. In late 1999, Congress enacted and the President signed the Ticket to Work and Work Incentive Improvement Act (TWWIIA). This legislation provides an opportunity for increasing the employment of people with disabilities.
- B. The Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (DOL/ETA) considers the Ticket to Work Program to be an opportunity to create model workforce services in the One-Stop system for people with disabilities.
- C. In addition to the Ticket to Work program, the TWWIIA provides for other benefits, including health care. These benefits are already in effect nationwide. More information on the TWWIIA and the Ticket to Work is available at: www.yourtickettowork.com and www.ssa.gov/work.
- D. One portion of the TWWIIA is the Ticket to Work Program, which will provide disabled individuals job-related training and placement assistance from providers whose resources best meet their needs.
- E. Recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) who are between the ages of 18 and 64 years and in current pay status are eligible to participate in the Ticket to Work program. The program provides them the right to choose their job training, employment placement, and other service providers from a list of providers approved by the Social Security Administration (SSA).
- F. Participation in Ticket to Work is voluntary. Recipients will receive a Ticket in the form of a paper document with instructions and information about the Ticket Program. A recipient electing not to use the Ticket may opt to use existing services that are available through vocational rehabilitation agencies or other services available through the One-Stop system.

- G. The recipient may request a list of Employment Network (EN) providers from the SSA's Program Manager, Maximus, and can take the Ticket to any approved EN whose resources best meet his or her needs.
- H. An EN can be a public or private entity (including, but not limited to employers, entrepreneurs, the self-employed, etc.) approved by the SSA to provide job training, employment services, and other support services needed to facilitate entry or reentry into employment. The EN may be a single provider of such services, an association of such providers or a One-Stop Delivery Center established under the Workforce Investment Act. As an EN, a qualified One-Stop can provide employment services, rehabilitation services, or other support services that would subsequently be paid by the SSA for costs based upon the total savings to the Social Security Trust fund.
- I. Thirteen states (excluding California) are currently piloting the three phases, to be completed by January 2004.
- J. Implementation of the Ticket to Work Program in California is currently planned for August 2003 (Phase 3). When a specific implementation date is determined and more information becomes available, an addendum to this FOD will be issued.
- K. The Workforce Investment Division will be sending an Information Bulletin to Local Workforce Investment Areas about this program.

II. PROCEDURES/INSTRUCTIONS

- A. Managers are encouraged to discuss this program with staff and One-Stop partners in the event inquiries about the Ticket to Work Program are received. Additionally, One-Stops may want to consider whether they are interested in participating as an EN. (See web sites listed in I.C. for specific information on ENs.)
- B. The Social Security Administration's ticket to Work link (cited in section I.C.) has been added to the EDD home page, and a Question & Answer document about the program has been added to the DocuShare collection at: http://151.143.214.11/dscgi/ds.py/Get/File-45157/Ticket_to_Work_QA.doc Information about the Ticket to Work Program will also be linked JS managers may direct their staff to provide the EDD home page or Ticket-to-Work web sites' addresses to customers seeking more information, or may print pertinent information from these web sites for customer use. At this time, no brochures or marketing materials have been provided for distribution to customers.

III. REFERENCES

Ticket to Work and Work Incentive Improvement Act Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy, www.dol.gov/odep

IV. ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

None

/S/ HAVEN BAYS
Interim Deputy Director
Job Service Branch